the Central Voice

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Lancaster kicks off midstate's 2018 Pride season

PRIDE GUIDE PGS. 11-14

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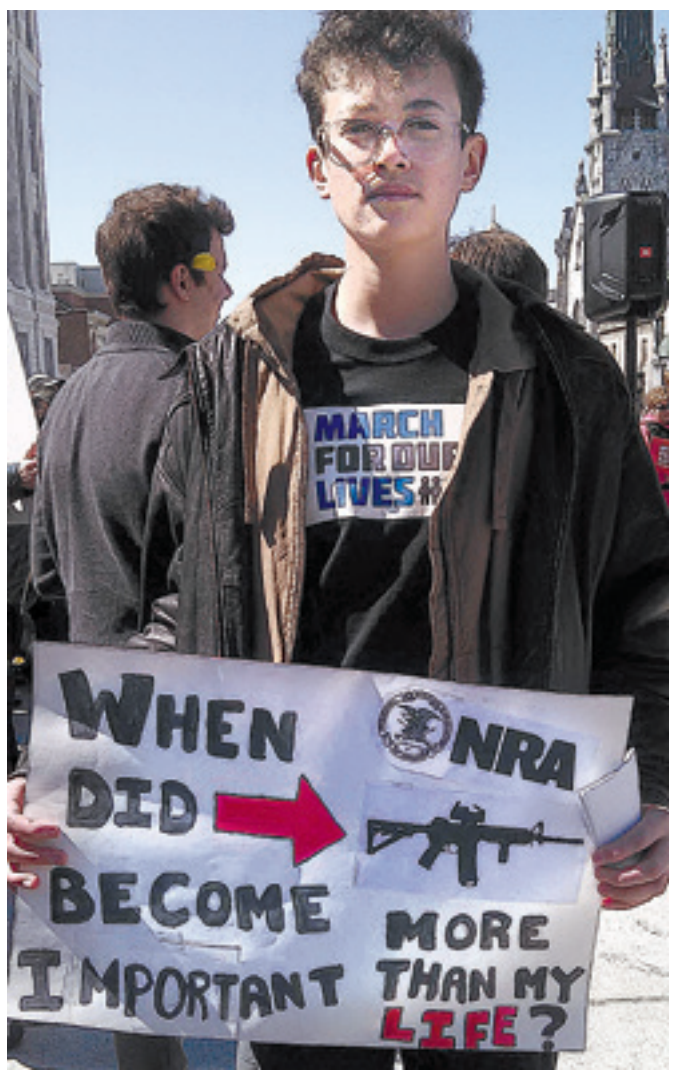
FIGHTING FOR OUR LIVES



"I fear for my life in one of the places I should feel safest."

Spoken by Central Dauphin High School Junior Eamonn Wrightstone (pictured left) at Harrisburg's March For Our Lives rally

By Frank Pizzoli

The March 24 Harrisburg March for Our Lives rally, one of 800+ events held worldwide, drew several hundred gun-control advocates, including one whose home-made sign said "Gays Against Guns". When it happened, the Pulse nighclub shooting had been the worst active-shooter incident on record. (See *Pulse Owner: "Within a few weeks I knew"* on p. 5.)

After speaking on the steps of the State Capitol, 17-year old Eamonn Wrightstone tells *The Central Voice* his future plans include studying cinema and filmmaking. But right now he's focused on social justice. "I do a lot of social justice work at my school and in the community. I work with the Community Responders Network and the YWCA, two great and incredible organizations," he says.

He also works on gun control because it affects his life.

"School shootings are no longer a rarity, they are common-place. We currently average 1.5 a week," Wrightstone explains. Although he has never experienced a shooting, and is grateful he hasn't, "that

Please see **FIGHTING**, page **21**

Queering racial justice

Panel asked to consider the ways we oppress each other within the LGBT community

By Frank Pizzoli

As 24 people and a panel of six speakers assembled for Queering Racial Justice, Amanda Arbour, executive director of the LGBT Center of Central PA, and Heidi Notario, the center board's president, looked out at a group that ranged in age from 20-something to well over 60.

Three simple questions with no simple but achievable answers had been prepared.

"What does racism look like inside our own LGBT community?" Notario asked. Same as it does outside the LGBT community was the panel's consensus.

One panelist talked about attending a Harrisburg rally celebrating marriage equality. No people of color had been invited to speak. "Let's just be happy with what we've achieved," is what she was told by one rally attendee. He really meant "We'll get to you later."

This exclusionary scenario – repeated via comments – is perhaps why Arbour prefaced the discussion by asking the audience to consider "the ways we oppress each other" within the LGBT community.

"We must open ourselves up to some discomfort so

Please see **QUEERING**, page **20**

We give it to you straight.
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From the wacky world of homophobes
HOMOPHOBE OF THE YEAR
There is no single-issue fight

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INTERNATIONAL

WATCH LIST: MARRIAGE EQUALITY by Rex Wockner

CHILE:

A marriage-equality bill is pending in Congress and come March 11 both houses will have majority support for marriage equality, even as a new president takes office who has little interest in the matter. Chile is required to bring in marriage equality to comply with a 2016 settlement with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. The nation is also bound by the Jan. 9, 2018, Inter-American Court of Human Rights marriage-equality ruling, which created binding precedent for 16 nations without marriage equality that are signatories to the American Convention on Human Rights. *See the "Sixteen Americas nations" item in the "Final rulings issued" section at Wockner.com for background.*

COSTA RICA:

Six marriage-equality cases are pending in the Constitutional Chamber of Costa Rica›s Supreme Court of Justice — four of them filed since the Inter-American Court of Human Rights marriage-equality ruling in January 2018. The cases include actions of unconstitutionality against the nation›s Family Code, which prohibits marriage equality, as well as amparos — individuals› demands for protection from discriminatory government action. The amparos target the government for not complying with the Inter-American Court ruling, the Superior Notary Council for blocking couples› marriages after the Inter-American Court ruling, and the Constitutional Chamber justices themselves, for not having ruled on the two older cases.

ECUADOR:

A marriage-equality case (an "extraordinary protection action") is pending before Ecuador›s Constitutional Court and the ruling is, by law, years overdue. In the wake of the January 2018 Inter-American Court of Human Rights marriage-equality ruling, if the Ecuador decision doesn›t come soon, plaintiffs say they will advance to the Inter-American system. On Jan. 15, 2018, the Ecuadorian Federation of LGBTI Organizations called on President Lenín Moreno to recognize marriage equality immediately.

NORTHERN IRELAND:

Northern Ireland, which is part of the United Kingdom, doesn't have a government because the Democratic Unionist Party and Sinn Féin power-sharing agreement collapsed in January 2017 and hasn't been restored due to disagreement about marriage equality and local language rights. It is possible any resolution to the impasse could see introduction of equal marriage in the last major area of the United Kingdom that doesn›t have it. It is also increasingly possible that, in the absence of a Northern Ireland government, marriage equality will be imposed by the UK Parliament in London. Meanwhile, a failed attempt to achieve marriage equality via the courts is on appeal.

PANAMA:

Lawyer Iván Chanis Barahona, head of Panama's marriage-equality group, La Fundación Iguales Panamá, says the January 2018 Inter-American Court of Human Rights marriage-equality ruling is "totally binding" on Panama. "Case closed." A Panama Supreme Court of Justice draft opinion rejecting marriage equality that had been circulating at the court was withdrawn on Feb. 15, 2018, because of the Inter-American Court ruling. On Jan. 16, 2018, Panamanian Vice President Isabel De Saint Malo said the Inter-American court ruling is indeed binding ("vinculante") on Panama.

PARAGUAY:

According to activists, there's nothing in Paraguay's constitution that stands in the way of marriage equality. In the wake of the January 2018 marriage-equality ruling by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, activist group SomosGay announced two new lawsuits at the nation›s Supreme Court of Justice. As a first step, the suits seek recognition of two marriages of same-sex couples who married abroad.

PERU:

In the wake of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights' January 2018 marriage-equality ruling, the president of the Supreme Court of Justice, Duberlí Rodríguez, said, "Peru is part of the Inter-American system, and the organism that defends and protects these rights is called the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and ... if the court has taken a decision, I believe that all the parties are called to respect that decision." A legal case is on appeal in the Fourth Civil Chamber of the Lima Superior Court of Justice in which veteran LGBT activist Óscar Ugarteche is trying to get the national registry to recognize his Mexican marriage to Fidel Aroche. Ugarteche and Aroche won in a lower court, and constitutional experts say the appeal is one path for Peru to move toward compliance with the Inter-American Court ruling. Meanwhile, a marriage-equality bill was introduced in Congress in 2017 and is awaiting action by the Justice Committee.

PHILIPPINES:

The Supreme Court will hear a marriage-equality case June 19, 2018. President Rodrigo Duterte has expressed support for marriage equality.

VENEZUELA:

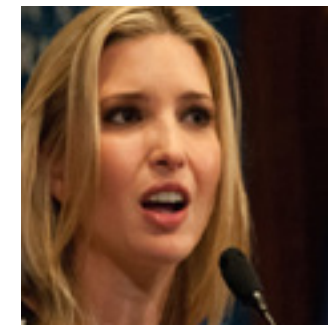
Two marriage-equality lawsuits are in their final stage in the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Tribunal of Justice, reportsVenezuela Igualitaria. The group said it expects rulings soon and expects to win. One lawsuit targets Civil Code Article 44, which says: "Marriage cannot be contracted except between one man and one woman." ("El matrimonio no puede contraerse sino entre un solo hombre y una sola mujer.") The other lawsuit alleges a «legislative omission» resulting from the National Assembly›s failure to take up the Equal Civil Marriage Bill (Proyecto de Ley de Matrimonio Civil Igualitario). "2018 looks to be a year with favorable judicial decisions on our ... cases for the rights of LGBTI people," Venezuela Igualitaria said.

NATIONAL

AIDS RESEARCHER NEXT CDC HEAD

A pioneering AIDS researcher who's also an expert on treating heroin addiction may become the new director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, reports Ron Johnson. Dr. Robert R. Redfield, 66, founded the Institute for Human Virology with Dr. Robert C. Gallo, who co-discovered the HIV retrovirus and developed the blood test for HIV. Redfield now oversees a Maryland program providing HIV care and treatment to more than 6,000 patients in the Baltimore-Washington, D.C., area. It also combats HIV/AIDS in several African nations. Redfield would replace Dr. Brenda Fitzgerald, President Trump's first CDC appointment, who resigned in January amid complaints about her investments in tobacco and health-care companies. Fitzgerald was appointed by Tom Price, Trump's first secretary of Health and Human Services, who resigned in September after criticism for lavish travel spending.

IVANKA ROLLBACK



Bilerico Project's John Gallagher asks: Remember when Ivanka Trump was going to be the firewall between us and the crazies in her dad's administration? In a profile in the Washington Post, Ivanka acknowledges that she doesn't see her role as advocating publicly against policies she disagrees with. "When people say, 'Where is Ivanka and why is she silent on X, Y, Z?,' they don't understand how any White House works," Ivanka told the paper. In Ivanka's opinion, her duty is to get behind the White House, no matter what. "No West Wing staffer should tweet things that are inconsistent with the policy of the White House," she said. *National Press Club photo*

JUDGE LEARNS HARD WAY

Alex Bollinger reports that Marion County Circuit Judge Vance Day was suspened by the Oregon Supreme Court for three years without pay for six misconduct charges, including several about his refusal to marry same-sex couples. This is the longest suspension for judicial misconduct that the court has ever handed down. Judge Day got the attention of the state's supreme court in 2015 when multiple complaints were filed about him, including several about his refusal to perform same-sex marriages. Marriage equality was legalized in Oregon in 2014, and at first Day just refused to marry same-sex couples. He told his staff to send same-sex couples to other judges but did not refuse to hear heterosexual couples. The next year, he said that he wouldn't marry anyone at all. *Source: Facebook*

Real gay news – we give it to readers straight

Publisher's Voice

By Frank Pizzoli

Publishing is difficult. Social change is more difficult.

In this issue, you will read about "queering" racial justice. The story is based on a local panel discussion that began with the question: What does racism look like inside our own LGBT community? Same as it does outside the LGBT community was the consensus.

Yes, that's correct. Being "gay" doesn't automatically imbue anyone with love for anyone who's not "gay like I am gay". We all live and learn. Hopefully, the discussion recently begun by the local panel will be continued by others.

The legacy Barbara Poma will represent love for all who are different. Owner of Pulse nightclub when the killings occurred, Poma talks with *The Central Voice* about her current mission.

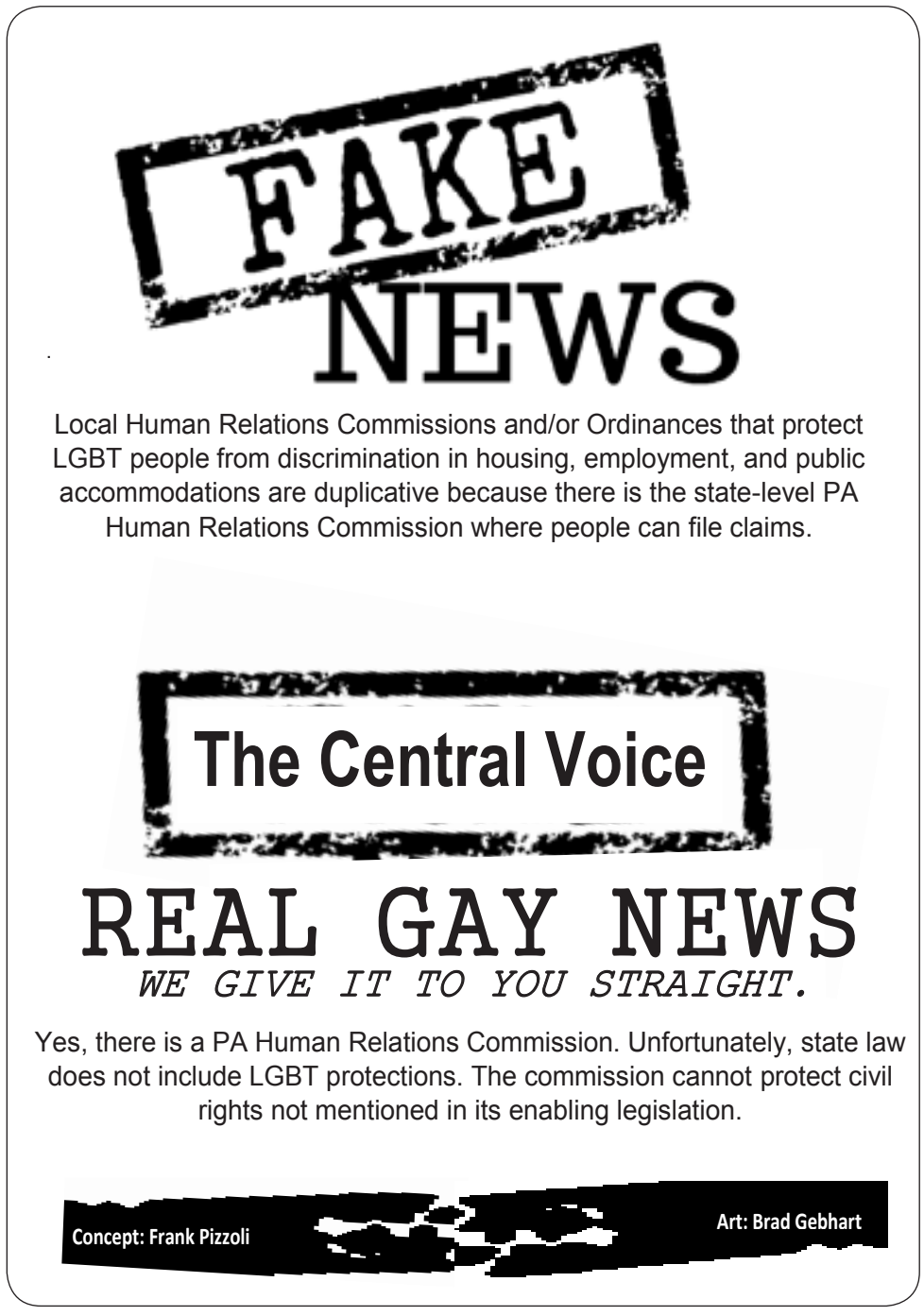
Harrisburg City's Human Relations Commission is back on its mission. Recently reconstituted and at full complement, Chairman Russ Boggs, well-respected member of the region's LGBT community, gives readers the inside scoop.

Finally, when Salman Rushdie told *The Central Voice* the children may save us, he may have been referring to local gun-control advocate Eamonn Wrightstone. He spoke at the March 24 rally on the steps of the State Capitol.

We hope our coverage of issues and events represents real gay news. Some things are better straight.

THECENTRALVOICE.COM SPECIAL FEATURES:

- *The Central Voice* asks locally-based nationally-known author Mike Long if Billy Graham's anti-LGBTQ legacy will live on.
- Socialists. Right here in the region! Some of them Gay Socialists! Last issue we broached the subject (not for the first time). Now we continue the dialogue by having an individual talk about her beliefs. As the national Republican Party crumbles and the national Democratic Party continues to fumble, voters are looking for alternatives.


FAKE
NEWS
Local Human Relations Commissions and/or Ordinances that protect LGBT people from discrimination in housing, employment, and public accommodations are duplicative because there is the state-level PA Human Relations Commission where people can file claims.
The Central Voice
REAL GAY NEWS
WE GIVE IT TO YOU STRAIGHT.
Yes, there is a PA Human Relations Commission. Unfortunately, state law does not include LGBT protections. The commission cannot protect civil rights not mentioned in its enabling legislation.
Concept: Frank Pizzoli
Art: Brad Gebhart

Voice Box

Notes from our readers

E-mail your thoughts to frankpizzoli@gmail.com

NEWS TO ME
Great work on your interview with Daniel Mendelsohn in The Gay and Lesbian Review / Worldwide! All new stuff to me!
Dr. Michael Long, Elizabethtown College (Read his comments on Rev. Billy Graham's LGBT legacy @ thecentralvoice.com)

FEATURED
I would like to thank Central Voice for the opportunity to be featured in your publication. I look forward to working with y'all in the future. Love and Solidarity!
Madison

CAPTURES
The story reads really well and captures the essence of the evening's discussions.
Rosemary Browne, CEO, Alder Health Services (participant in Queering Racial Justice panel discussion hosted by The LGBT Center of Central PA.)

THANKS
Thank you for all you do Frank!
Keisha McToy, Director of Operations, Alder Health Services (participant in Queering Racial Justice panel discussion hosted by The LGBT Center of Central PA.)

GREAT
Your new online site is great!
Adrian Shanker, Founder & Executive Director, Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center

the Central Voice

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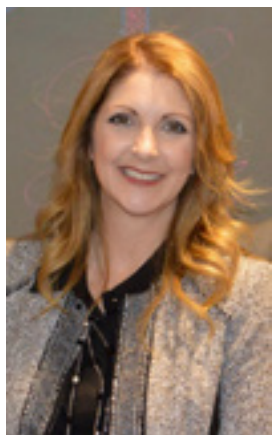
Pulse owner: "Within a few weeks I knew"

By Frank Pizzoli



Barbara Poma

"Within a few weeks I knew I'd be doing something," Barbara Poma said over the telephone.

That something is one-PULSE Foundation.

Poma was the owner of Pulse, Orlando, Florida's gay nightclub on June 12, 2016, when Omar Mateen, a 29-year-old security guard, killed 49 people and wounded 58 others in a terrorist attack and hate crime inside the club.

Mateen was shot and killed by Orlando Police Department (OPD) officers after a three-hour standoff. Pulse was hosting a "Latin Night" and thus most of the victims were Latinx. It is the deadliest incident of violence against LGBT people in U.S. history, and the deadliest terrorist attack in the U.S. since the September 11 attacks in 2001.

At the time, it was the deadliest mass shooting by a single shooter in the U.S., being surpassed the following year by the Las Vegas shooting. It remains the deadliest U.S. mass shooting in which the perpetrator did not commit suicide.

"Events like the Pulse massacre 'you cannot prepare for'", Poma said in a medium-volume, resolute voice that sounded like someone who knew tragedy but decided not to succumb. She is a survivor.

"It's been 20 months, a long time, from Los Angeles to New York City, other locations. Our original idea has evolved as we have travelled around the country," she explained. "I've had a very positive reception everywhere. We've been doing fundraising, community events, educational programs, researching our ideas for the foundation."

The foundation is in the process of establishing a memorial at the nightclub site. A museum is also underway, hopefully adjacent or nearby the site of the massacre.

"We also have a scholarship program we're establishing that has a unique feature. In return for receiving the funds, recipients must have a plan to give back through community work," Poma said. If successful, victims will have a scholarship named after each of them.

Scholarships will be further "personalized" to repent dashed aspirations and careers with the names of the victims.

"If a victim was or always wanted to be a fire fighter, we will have a fire fighter scholarship. Their lives were cut short so the scholarship will honor them by aspiration and name," Poma explained. "There are hair salons and cosmetology schools coming on board soon, too," Poma said. "We never want these people forgotten. They were children in families. They were loved by others."

The foundation is also engaged in Community Town Halls, "although we rearranged one when Parkland happened. We didn't want to interfere, we wanted those students and families to have their space. We deferred," Poma said.

Grieving

"Grieving after the massacre was a human ebb and flow among the 49 sets of families, friends, lovers," Poma says softly about her immediate contact as club owner after the tragic episode.

"All grieving is personal and unique and so is my involvement with survivors, some more than others, some not at all. I respect everyone as they cope," she said.

"Contrary to what many people think, the foundation does not have a 'list' of contacts who are survivors or family and friends, no lists," Poma said. "Our contact has been 'organic' not formal or programmatic," she said.

Encouraging people to finish the work the foundation has started is paramount.

"We've started the foundation and we're working on a memorial and museum. They need to be completed," Poma said. "We need to preserve for after we are gone all the lessons learned from so many gun tragedies." Her voice strong and direct, "These shootings shouldn't happen anywhere. Not in schools, churches, concerts, or casinos. That's enough," Poma said.

EDITOR'S NOTE: *With the recent acquittal of Noor Salman, wife of Pulse shooter Omar Mateen, a new narrative is shaping around why Mateen committed his ugly act. Anti-LGBT hatred does not figure into the new perspective on the case. This does not diminish the meaning of Pulse victims' death or the calm, level-headed sincerity of Barbara Poma as she pursues her noble mission to properly remember the victims, regardless of the reasons their killer acted. It may mean the massacre was not a crime against LGBT people. Salman's prosecutors noted in their closing statement that Pulse was not Mateen's first choice of target. His first choice was Disney Springs, a shopping and entertainment complex. Mateen, according to prosecutor's evidence, chose Pulse about one hour before the attack and that it was not clear to them he knew it was a gay bar. He asked a security guard where all the women were.*

Although the Pulse narrative is evolving, hate is hate, same as love is love.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation noted that for 2016, 6,121 hate crime incidents were reported --an increase of 5% from 2015. Of the 6,121 incidents reported, 1,076 were based on sexual orientation bias and 124 were based on gender identity bias. These numbers reflect a 2% and a 9% increase, respectively. Of the 124 incidents based on gender identity, 19 targeted gender non-conforming people, a decrease of 54 percent from 2015. Yet, of those same 124 incidents, 105 targeted transgender people, an increase of 44 percent from 2015. However, these numbers likely represent only a fraction of such cases, given that reporting hate crimes to the FBI is not mandatory.

Lawsuit pits gay rights against religious freedom

By Julie Moreau

Local response to the legal battle brewing at the University of Iowa pitting gay rights against religious freedom.

"This situation certainly brings to light a manufactured conflict between religious communities and the LGBT community," says Ben Allatt, Harrisburg City Council member.

Business Leaders in Christ (BLinC) is suing the University of Iowa for religious discrimination after it revoked the group's campus registration in November for denying a leadership position to a gay student. The group, which was founded three years ago at the school's Tippie College of Business, rejects the university's claim.

Allatt, who himself is a practicing Christian and son of an ordained minister told *The Central Voice*," Many within the religious community fail to see that simply being gay does not disqualify someone from being religious. The group says its membership is open to everyone but says its leaders must affirm a statement of faith that rejects homosexuality.

"It is a shame that a student who identifies as gay and Christian would be barred from participating in a group that identifies as Christian, Allatt says, adding "this is the height of hypocrisy."

The lawsuit claims "BLinC declined the student's request because he expressly stated that he rejected BLinC's religious beliefs and would not follow them. Asking the government to subsidize your religious gathering is a novel and aggressive reframing of what religious liberty has been understood to be in the past."

"This is 2017, not 1984," Jacob Estell, the student president of BLinC, said in a statement. "Our beliefs weren't made by us, and they can't be changed by us either — certainly not just to satisfy Orwellian government rules."

Allatt hopes there several things considered in this particular case.

"One this group on campus is not a church, and without knowing the specific details regarding the group's make-up, one can assume that the group is nondenominational in an attempt to appeal to a wide group of Christians to participate, Allatt says.

Second, "churches have the ability through religious exemptions to declare who they are to the world, and if they determine they are not inclusive to the LGBT community, that is their legal right." But he also points out that "This group is not a church, it is a group operating within a university and is subject to the policies set forth by the university."

The Becket Fund for Religious Liberty is representing BLinC in court. The Becket Fund has developed a track record of successfully litigating religious liberty cases, including the landmark 2014 case *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby Stores*. In a split decision, the Supreme Court sided with Hobby Lobby to find that the government could not compel the company to provide contraception for female employees when to do so would violate the religious beliefs of the owners.

Recently appointed Harrisburg Human Relations Commission members: From left: Chair Russ Boggs, Kia Hansard, Amanda Carter, Gretchen Little, Vice Chair; Theo Brady, Valarie Carelock, Amanda Arbour, Joshua Grubbs, Christi'an Yellowdy

Harrisburg city reconstitutes Human Relations Commission

By Frank Pizzoli

"We're taking all the steps necessary to bring back the Capitol city's Human Relations Commission," Russ Boggs tells *The Central Voice*. He was recently appointed to chair the entity now that the commission is being formally reconstituted.

"What we are now doing is creating the policies and procedures needed to function, as well as updating some of the language of the original ordinance with current terminology," Boggs explains. For example, replacing "disabled persons" with "persons with disabilities", and similar language changes.

"Any changes will then need to be approved by City Council," Boggs says.

History

Long story short – the commission was established in the 80s and charged with protecting the civil rights of what are called "protected classes" in human relations language. In 2010, the commission was defunded and consequently phased out under then-Mayor Linda Thompson's tumultuous one term in office, 2010-2014.

The commission's closure was not a nefarious plot to limit civil rights in the Keystone State's capitol city which has a rich history of civil rights advocacy. It was a reflection of the incisively disruptive financial quagmire in which the city found itself at the time. Since then, major progress has been made in restoring the city's financial stability.

On Feb. 22, 1983 Harrisburg City Council member Jane Perkins moved that the Capitol city establish a Human Relations Commission.

As envisioned, the commission would administer the city's Human Relations Ordinance, established simultaneously with the commission. Along with other classes of individuals, the ordinance would protect "sexual preference/orientation" in the provision of what are called "public accommodations". For example, housing, employment, hotels, restaurants are public accommodations.

With Boggs now leading the reconstituted commission, he has already chaired a series of "organizational meetings". The first meeting allowed newly appointed commission members to meet and greet; the second to establish officers; and the third for Boggs to call the commission to order with their first formal agenda. The commission must meet 10 times annually. All meeting dates are published on the city's web site.

Now starts the public process whereby city council considers the commission's reconstitution for three consecutive meetings. Public comments can be made at any of the three meetings at the appropriate time during the meeting. After the process is completed, a vote is taken by council.

"We want to bring the commission and the ordinance under which it operates, what it enforces, into the 21st century," Boggs says. "So far we have one 'inquiry' regarding the process of filing a formal complaint. We have no filed complaints," Boggs says.

Commission members are, in addition to Boggs as chair: Gretchen Little, vice chair; and members Josh Grubbs, Kia Hansard, Amanda Arbour, Amanda Carter, Valerie Carelock, Christi'an Yellowdy, and Theo Brady.

The commission's meeting dates are posted on its website, as are the meeting Minutes, as they are approved by the commission. "All meetings (with limited exceptions as provided for in established law governing the process) are open to the public, which may comment during a time set aside for comments," Boggs says.

Why is reconstitution important?

A common misconception when it comes to sexual orientation is that local ordinance protections are a duplication of what already exists at the state-level with the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission.

That's fake news.

The state-level commission does not have the legislative authority to review claims of discrimination based on sexual orientation and/or gender expression.

Yes, the state-level human relations commission does have the power to address other forms of alleged discrimination other than sexual orientation and/or gender expression. Only local municipalities with human relations commissions that also include language

Please see **HUMAN RELATIONS**, page **22**

Creating community

LGBT Center of Central PA

By Amanda Arbour

People often ask me, "What does the LGBT Center DO?" I tell folks about our mission and our programs and the services that we offer. When it comes down to it, though, we are a community center - and at the core of what we do is creating community for LGBTQ+ people in central Pennsylvania.

Simply being a queer or trans person in a society that actively tries to deny our identities and our existence can be incredibly isolating, and we need to be connected with others who have shared identities and experiences in order to survive.

For me, that is the power of what we do at the LGBT Center - being a place where LGBTQ+ people can create community together, with all of the multiplicity of identities and experiences that we bring.

I saw this in March, when the Center held its 11th annual GSA Leadership Summit at Dickinson College, bringing together nearly 400 high school students from across central Pennsylvania to participate in a day of workshops. The excitement in the air was palpable, and you could feel how thrilled all of the students were to be there and to meet other LGBTQ+ students.

Having specific groups based on age or identity is vital because we do not all share the same lived experiences, and some of us hold more power and privilege than others.

At the end of the day during the open mic time, they shared what this experience meant to them. One student said, "Coming here was finding a place where I don't feel alone and where I feel safe. Don't take this for granted. I learned so much today and it's very emotional, this is like the first time I feel like I have a big family." In addition to events like the GSA Summit, I also see the power of community through our regular programs - whether it's the Common Roads youth sharing their "high" of the week as coming to the center, the young adults checking in with each other and offering support, or the Aging with Pride folks enjoying conversation over a game of cards.

Now that we have dedicated spaces for LGBTQ-identified people of color through our Queer & Trans People of Color group, and for transgender and non-binary people through our Passageways group, these groups function as an important and unique way of creating community. Both were created in response to needs expressed by people who hold those identities, and have been developed and facilitated by them.

Sometimes people ask, "Why all of these different groups? Why can't we just all come together?" Having specific groups based on age or identity is vital because we do not all share the same lived experiences, and some of us hold more power and privilege than others.

My lived experiences, as a cisgender white queer woman who was born in the U.S., are very different from a transgender women of color who is an immigrant. Based on my identities, most queer spaces are accepting of me - but those same spaces may be hostile towards someone with a different set of identities.

Marginalized groups, in particular, need dedicated spaces where they are not under the constant pressure of responding to microaggressions or speaking for their entire group. It is vital to have spaces where people can simply BE, and having dedicated spaces is an important part of that.

When we do come together - over potlucks or film screenings or panel discussions - we must approach those spaces conscious of the privileges and power that we hold, and seeking how we can stand in solidarity with one another.

As a white person, how can I make sure I am not taking up too much space, answering for or talking over people of color? As a cisgender person, how can I not only make sure that I am using the correct pronouns for people, but also change the assumptions that I make about people's gender in the first place?

Sometimes it means being quiet and listening to someone else, even if I have something to say. Sometimes it means speaking up to interrupt a microaggression. Sometimes it means taking correction and owning a mistake. Sometimes it means correcting someone else. Sometimes it means asking a question. Sometimes it means making a mental note to Google something later.

Creating community is messy - because we are all human beings who bring our own unique set of identities and experiences, privileges and preconceptions, traumas and triggers. We must navigate this complexity as we seek to create a safe and brave space for ALL of our communities - while prioritizing those who are most marginalized.

HACC's Medical Assisting Program gets financial boost from UPMC

Over the next two years, students from the Medical Assisting Certificate Program at HACC, Central Pennsylvania's Community College, will have the opportunity to apply for a UPMC Pinnacle Workforce Development Medical Assisting Scholarship established by UPMC Pinnacle.

The donation will provide up to 20 scholarships per academic year at $4,000 per scholarship. Students may use the funds for tuition, fees, books and/or program expenses.

UPMC Pinnacle is donating up to $80,000 per year for two years to the HACC Foundation. The HACC Foundation is a nonprofit educational trust established in 1985 to raise private and corporate revenues in support of HACC.

To be eligible for the scholarship, students must be enrolled in the College's Medical Assisting Certificate Program and participate in a mandatory career preparation workshop before completing the program.

If you are interested in applying for the program or scholarship, please contact Susan Biggs, HACC director of healthcare education.

To contribute to the HACC Foundation, please visit hacc.edu/GiveNow. The HACC Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that was established in 1985 to raise private and corporate revenues in support of HACC, Central Pennsylvania's Community College.

• • • •

HACC, Central Pennsylvania's Community College, is the first and largest of Pennsylvania's 14 community colleges. HACC offers over 100 career and transfer associate degree, certificate and diploma programs to approximately 19,000 students. Also, the College serves students at its Gettysburg, Harrisburg, Lancaster, Lebanon and York campuses; through virtual learning; and via workforce development and continuing education training. For more information on how HACC is uniquely YOURS, visit hacc.edu. Also, follow us on Twitter (@HACCinfo), like us on Facebook (Facebook.com/HACC64) and use #HACCNews.

IMPROVING
YOUR **HEALTH**

WELCOMING **ALL** Alder Health Services improves the health and well-being of individuals living with HIV/AIDS and members of the LGBTQ community by providing a culturally competent and affirming environment that empowers the people we serve.

OUR SERVICES INCLUDE:

- Case Management
- Health Education
- Mental Health
- Primary Care
- HIV/STD Screening and Treatment

For more information or to volunteer, please call ***717-233-7190*** *or visit* ***www.alderhealth.org****.*

Alder Health Services

We're celebrating with a festival of free & fab activities for the entire fam!

National HIV Testing Day

Wednesday, June 27TH, 10AM-4PM

at the Highmark Community Room:
110 South 17th Street, Harrisburg

Food | Prizes | Music

For more info:
Call (717) 230-3949

Hamilton Health Center

KNOWING IS SEXY • GET TESTED

Tired of planning your life around diarrhea?

Enough is Enough

Get relief. Pure and simple. Ask your doctor about Mytesi.

Mytesi (crofelemer):

- Is the **only** medicine FDA-approved to relieve diarrhea in people with HIV
- **Treats diarrhea differently** by normalizing the flow of water in the GI tract
- Has the same or fewer side effects as placebo in clinical studies
- Comes from a tree sustainably harvested in the Amazon Rainforest

What is Mytesi?

Mytesi is a prescription medicine that helps relieve symptoms of diarrhea not caused by an infection (noninfectious) in adults living with HIV/AIDS on antiretroviral therapy (ART).

Important Safety Information

Mytesi is not approved to treat infectious diarrhea (diarrhea caused by bacteria, a virus, or a parasite). Before starting you on Mytesi, your healthcare provider will first be sure that you do not have infectious diarrhea. Otherwise, there is a risk you would not receive the right medicine and your infection could get worse. In clinical studies, the most common side effects that occurred more often than with placebo were upper respiratory tract (sinus, nose, and throat) infection (5.7%), bronchitis (3.9%), cough (3.5%), flatulence (3.1%), and increased bilirubin (3.1%).

For Copay Savings Card and Patient Assistance, see Mytesi.com

Please see complete Prescribing Information at Mytesi.com.

NP-390-35

Mytesi® (crofelemer) 125 mg delayed-release tablets

RELIEF, PURE AND SIMPLE

IMPORTANT PATIENT INFORMATION

This is only a summary. See complete Prescribing Information at Mytesi.com or by calling 1-844-722-8256. This does not take the place of talking with your doctor about your medical condition or treatment.

What Is Mytesi?

Mytesi is a prescription medicine used to improve symptoms of noninfectious diarrhea (diarrhea not caused by a bacterial, viral, or parasitic infection) in adults living with HIV/AIDS on ART.

Do Not Take Mytesi if you have diarrhea caused by an infection. Before you start Mytesi, your doctor and you should make sure your diarrhea is not caused by an infection (such as bacteria, virus, or parasite).

Possible Side Effects of Mytesi Include:

- Upper respiratory tract infection (sinus, nose, and throat infection)
- Bronchitis (swelling in the tubes that carry air to and from your lungs)
- Cough
- Flatulence (gas)
- Increased bilirubin (a waste product when red blood cells break down)

For a full list of side effects, please talk to your doctor. Tell your doctor if you have any side effect that bothers you or does not go away.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Should I Take Mytesi If I Am:

Pregnant or Planning to Become Pregnant?

- Studies in animals show that Mytesi could harm an unborn baby or affect the ability to become pregnant
- There are no studies in pregnant women taking Mytesi
- This drug should only be used during pregnancy if clearly needed

A Nursing Mother?

- It is not known whether Mytesi is passed through human breast milk
- If you are nursing, you should tell your doctor before starting Mytesi
- Your doctor will help you to decide whether to stop nursing or to stop taking Mytesi

Under 18 or Over 65 Years of Age?

- Mytesi has not been studied in children under 18 years of age
- Mytesi studies did not include many people over the age of 65. So it is not clear if this age group will respond differently. Talk to your doctor to find out if Mytesi is right for you

What Should I Know About Taking Mytesi With Other Medicines?

If you are taking any prescription or over-the-counter medicine, herbal supplements, or vitamins, tell your doctor before starting Mytesi.

What If I Have More Questions About Mytesi?

For more information, please see the full Prescribing Information at Mytesi.com or speak to your doctor or pharmacist.

To report side effects or make a product complaint or for additional information, call 1-844-722-8256.

Rx Only

Manufactured by Patheon, Inc.
for Napo Pharmaceuticals, Inc. San Francisco, CA 94105
Copyright © Napo Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

napo pharmaceuticals
a subsidiary of jaguar health

Mytesi comes from the *Croton lechleri* tree harvested in South America.

Single payer health care for PA?

PA State Senator Art Haywood (D, Montgomery/Philadelphia) has introduced comprehensive single payer legislation into the state Senate in SB 1014, a companion to HB 1688, the Pennsylvania Healthcare Plan. According to HealthCare4All PA, Haywood's introduction of the bill now means Pennsylvania has Single Payer legislation in both chambers of the legislature. The next step in the process is to hold public hearings on the merits of the bills.

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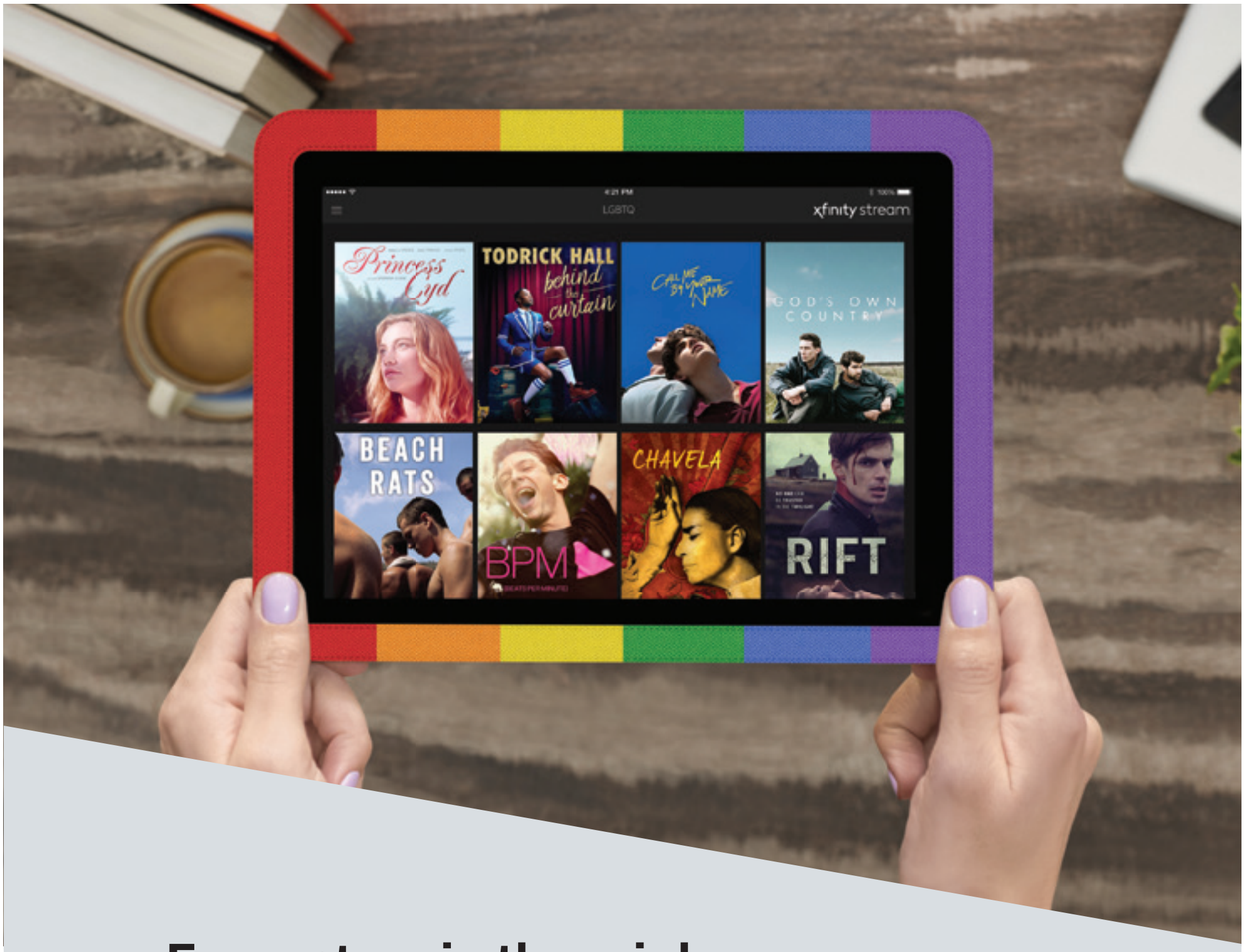
So let's run a little faster, eat a little better, sleep a little longer, aim a little higher, love a little more, and day by day, get a little happier. And let's take pride in our health. Highmark is proud to support the LGBTQ community. Let's do it all for health.
HIGHMARK
Highmark Blue Shield is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.
AllforHealth.com



Every story in the rainbow

Stirring romances. Inspiring dramas. Uplifting biographies. Pride comes in many stories. Xfinity X1 has the first-of-its-kind, community endorsed LGBTQ entertainment experience. Simply say "Pride" into the X1 Voice Remote to easily search this awesome collection. On X1, it's Pride all year, only with Xfinity.SM

Find yourself at **www.xfinity.com/LGBTQ**

COMCAST

Restrictions apply. Not available in all areas.

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2018 Lancaster PA PRIDE GUIDE

Lancaster Pride and The Central Voice are proud to celebrate the diversity of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, questioning, and ally communities in Lancaster County through building community and pride in who we are.

This outdoor festival will feature an array of talented entertainment, varied vendor offerings from arts and crafts to Pride regalia, and a full menu of food offerings.

June 24th, 2018
12-6 pm
FREE Admission
Open to the Public

LOCATION: Water Street from Culliton Park to Mayor Janice. P. Stork Park

www.facebook.com/LancasterPAPride
for an up-to-date list of entertainers, vendors, and sponsors

STOP BY THE PRIDE TABLE FOR INFORMATION, LANCASTER PRIDE T-SHIRTS, PRIDE GUIDES AND MORE!

The PRIDE Board would like to thank our talented entertainers, varied vendors, dedicated volunteers, and all of our supporters.Lancaster PA PRIDE is only possible because of you!

FESTIVAL GUIDELINES:

- Please do your part to keep the area clean and safe—pick up trash and recyclables and deposit in their proper receptacles located throughout the park
- Ignore any protesters
- Report problems quickly to Pride workers or security personnel
- No Smoking

LANCASTER PRIDE GUIDE IS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS:

- Pinnacle Health
- Members First
- Bedford St. Antiques
- JA Sharp Custom Jeweler
- Lemon St. Market
- Market Square Presbyterian
- Double Tree by Hilton
- Ephrata Performing Arts
- Spice & Tea Exchange of Lancaster
- The Tally Ho

the Central Voice
CENTRAL PA'S LGBT NEWS SOURCE

LANCASTER PRIDE IS A PROJECT OF THE LGBT CENTER

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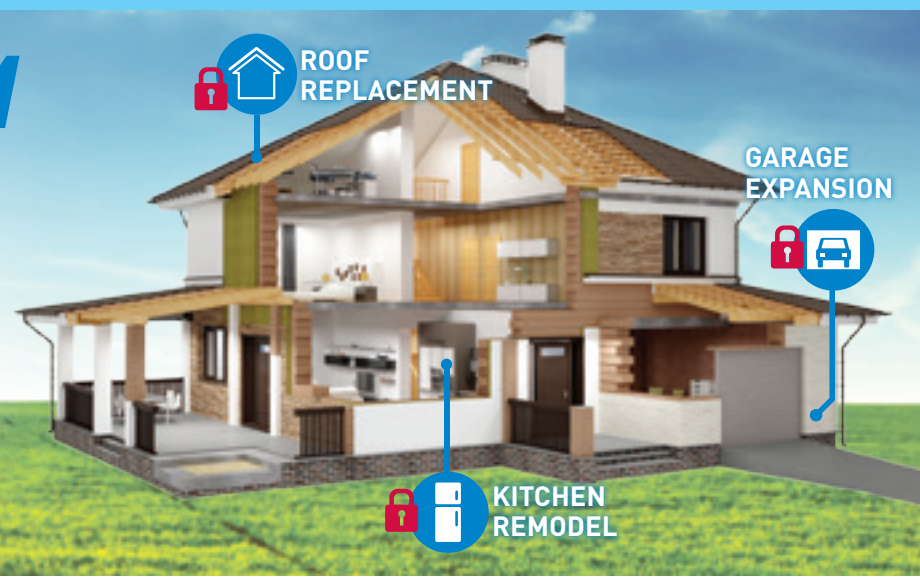
APR 6-MONTH INTRODUCTORY RATE[1]

REGULAR HOME EQUITY LINE OF CREDIT RATES AS LOW AS:
4.50%
APR[1]



You get the *FREEDOM* to lock in your rate and change from a variable rate to a fixed rate on portions of what you borrow.[2]

- **First rate lock is *FREE*[2]**
- **Pay no closing or application fees[3]**
- **Option to lock in all or a portion of your line of credit as a fixed term loan (3 fixed terms maximum). Terms available 1-15 years.[2]**

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members1st.org

(1)APR=Annual Percentage Rate. Home Equity Freedom Line of Credit (Line of Credit) introductory rate of 1.99% available through September 30, 2018. Introductory APR is available for all new lines of credit for a 6-month period of time from the date of the Line of Credit account opening. Refinancing of existing Members 1st equity loans and lines of credit are excluded from introductory APR. The introductory APR will automatically terminate at the end of the 6-month introductory period. No notice to borrower required. Upon expiration of the introductory rate, the advertised regular rate applies to credit worthy borrowers with property values equal to 70% loan to value (LTV) and below. The advertised regular Line of Credit rate is based on Prime Rates published in the Wall Street Journal on the last business day of the month plus or minus a margin with a floor of 3.00%. Maximum rate of 18%. The Line of Credit permits borrowing up to 100% of the available equity in a primary residence (excludes rental properties); other terms and conditions may apply. Your APR may vary. Minimum $5,000 line amount to open. **(2)Fixed Term Option:** You may lock in all or a portion of your line as a fixed term loan up to three fixed terms at one time. Terms available from 1 year to 15 year maximum. Your first fixed term lock option is free and subsequent lock options are subject to a $100 processing fee. Balances you choose to lock in at the fixed rate of interest must be repaid in substantially equal monthly payments of both principal and interest. The total monthly payment under the Line of Credit will include repayment of the total of all advances under the Line of Credit to date, in addition to and including the advance(s) for fixed term lock option(s). **(3)Fees:** Members 1st FCU will pay all closing cost in conjunction with the Line of Credit agreement, excludes properties deeded in a trust. Trust review fee $175.00 is paid by borrower, if applicable. If your Line of Credit is paid in full and closed within 36 months, you may be required to reimburse all third party fees paid on your behalf upon closing your account. Other restrictions or conditions may apply. This offer may be withdrawn at any time. Ask an associate for details. We do business in accordance with the Federal Fair Housing Law and Equal Credit Opportunity Act. We put our members first.

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UPMC Pinnacle is proud to employ a workforce that reflects the multiracial, cultural, and ethnic communities we serve. We are looking for talented individuals in every field — including IT, administration, nursing, and more — to provide the highest quality care and support to our patients and community.

UPMCPinnacle.com/Careers
EOE

Becker's Hospital Review 150 Great Places to Work 2016

UPMC Pinnacle

PLEASE SUPPORT THESE SPONSORS OF LANCASTER'S PRIDE FEST PROGRAM GUIDE

Tally Ho Tavern

CELEBRATING PRIDE EVERYDAY!

Lancaster Pride Events & Specials

June 18th - 24th

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Market Square Church pays for parking for worshipers in the Market Square Garage.
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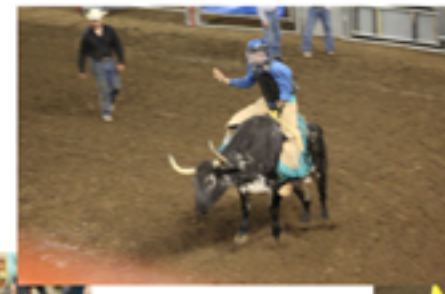

Keystone State Charity Rodeo

June 22-24, 2018

Diamond 7 Arena, 36 Deardorff Rd, Dillsburg, PA 17019

The Keystone State Charity Rodeo is an all-inclusive, family-friendly unique rodeo experience and community event. Men, women, members of the LGBTQ community and their straight allies will be competing equally in all rodeo events.

Ride the Mechanical Bull

Rodeo Weekend includes:

-A Rodeo School Friday starting at Noon
-A Junior Rodeo for Ages 12-18 Friday Night starting at 6PM
-Exciting Rodeo action both Saturday & Sunday 9:30am-5pm
-A country dance Saturday night 8:30 PM-Midnight
-Vendors, Activities for Kids & competitors from all over the US

For more information and tickets visit http://www.ksgra.org

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pgn LGBT NEWS SINCE 1976

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Radical Inclusivity & Transformational Love
Whoever you are and wherever you come from on your life's journey, there is a place for you.
Our congregation is alive and relevant in the community.
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Arts & Entertainment

Gardening, travel, enlighted reading

Finally, it's spring, and your library has a wide range of titles to get you prepared for outdoor gardening, travel preparations, or where to find great reads while you bask in the warm sun.

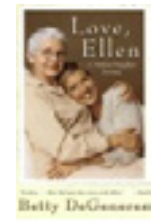
Dauphin County Library Book Reviews

By Yvonne Carmichael

Niki Jabbour's Veggie Garden Remix: 224 New Plants to Shake Up Your Garden and Add Variety, Flavor & Fun by Niki Jabbour

This bestselling author "invites you to shake up your vegetable garden with an intriguing array of 224 plants from around the world. . . Jabbour presents detailed growing information for each plant, along with fun facts and plant history. Be prepared to have your mind expanded and catch her contagious enthusiasm for experimentation and fun in the garden." (From the Publisher)

Love, Ellen: A Mother/Daughter Journey by Betty DeGeneres



"In a touching and wise memoir, the mother of comedienne Ellen DeGeneres describes her struggle to cope with her daughter's revelation about her homosexuality and to reconcile it with her own conservative values and explores the growth of her acceptance and friendship with her daughter." (From the Publisher) [This is an OverDrive e-book selection.]

Timeless Journeys: Travels to the World's Legendary Places by Natiional Geographic

"Pack your bags for an extraordinary adventure with National Geographic to more than 50 places that have captivated our imagination for centuries." This title contains stunning photography from National Geographic and also includes travel tips to help readers get started planning their journey. (Portions from the Publisher)

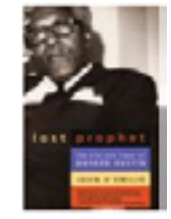
Golden Boy by Abigail Tarttelin

"Presenting themselves to the world as an effortlessly excellent family, successful criminal lawyer Karen, her Parliament candidate husband and her intelligent athlete son, Max, find their world crumbing in the wake of a friend's betrayal and the secret about Max's intersexual identity." (From the publisher)

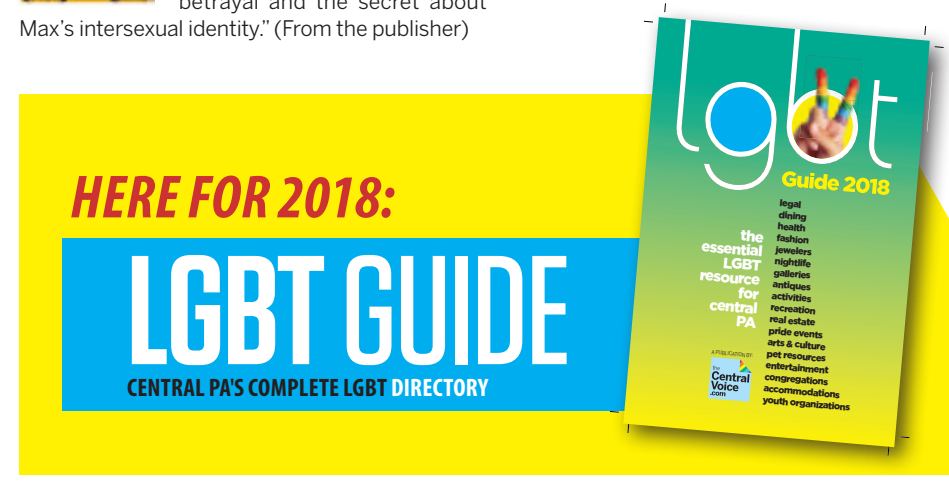
Big Ideas for Small Spaces: Creative Ideas and 30 Projects for Balconies, Roof Gardens, Windowsills and Terraces by Kay Maguire and Tony Williams

"Instructions and photographs show [how] to make 30 easy projects for the garden using inexpensive or found materials. Provides practical solutions to greening a small and otherwise barren area including outer walls, tiny patios, balconies, courtyards, terraces, windowsills and rooftops. Also includes instructions on the basics of gardening." (From the publisher)

Lost Prophet: The Life and Times of Bayard Rustin by John D'Emilio



"One of the most important figures of the American civil rights movement, Bayard Rustin taught Martin Luther King Jr. the methods of Gandhi, spearheaded the 1963 March on Washington, and helped bring the struggle of African Americans to the forefront of a nation's consciousness. But despite his incontrovertibly integral role in the movement, the openly gay Rustin is not the household name that many of his activist contemporaries are. In exploring history's Lost Prophet, acclaimed historian John D'Emilio explains why Rustin's influence was minimized by his peers and why his brilliant strategies were not followed or were followed by those he never meant to help."



From the trailer park to the pulpit: Grandma Esther speaks

Book Review By Central Voice

Central Voice columnist Terry Drew Karanen's recently published collection of sayings by his maternal grandmother Esther, born in 1909, show the wisdom that helped create a life and career in helping others.

From the Trailer Park to the Pulpit: Reflections on the wise and wacky sayings of Grandma Esther are lessons for the reader to assist in working through self-doubt, finding personal power, and communicating effectively with others, says Karanen. Over 20 photos are also included.

Karanen tells *Central Voice* the book "builds on the history of Grandma Esther, our family, and me. However, the order in which you choose to read the chapters should be inconsequential. If you find yourself drawn to a particular chapter, go with it. If something is historically unclear, know it was probably explained or elaborated on in an earlier section."

When he uses the term "God", Karanen means a power that he feels "is greater than me, but that I and all other humans are expressions of. God is the ocean; we and all else we see, and don't see, are the drops of water," he explains.

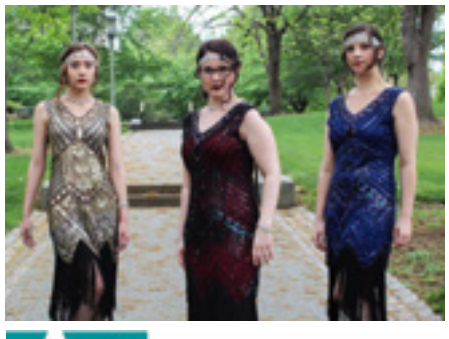
He believes in a "user friendly" and non-judgmental universal order that responds to us. Other terms for this might be, "Divine Love," "Universal Consciousness," "Goddess," or anything else that might fit into your spirituality or religious upbringing.

"A power greater than us could mean science or a group of people that is held in esteem or revered," Karanen says.

Gramda Esther must have been a greater power in the lives of many others. Her sayings will remind you of your own life experiences.

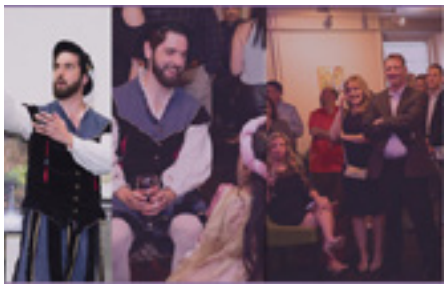
From the Trailer Park to the Pulpit: Reflections on the wise and wacky sayings of Grandma Esther by Terry Drew Karanen, published by Teiwaz Publishing, Carlisle, PA. Cover photo is of Esther in Cincinnati, OH (1946)

Arts & Entertainment for May & June



KAYLA KEATING & THE TWO-BEAT DAMES
Art Association of Harrisburg
Gamut Theatre Main Gallery
April 8, 2-4 p.m.
$10 donation at the door is encouraged.

MILLION DOLLAR QUARTER
Fulton Theatre
Now through May 20
Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins, a historic quartet, brought together by an extraordinary twist of fate on a December evening in 1956. Relive the era through the Billboard genres of rock 'n' roll, gospel, R&B and country, with an unbelievable score and unforgettable numbers that every generation knows, including "Blue Suede Shoes," "Fever," "Walk the Line," "Great Balls of Fire," "Folsom Prison Blues," "Whole Lotta Shakin' Goin' On," "Hound Dog," and many more.



SHAKESPEARE'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION
Gamut Theatre
April 22, 4 – 7 p.m.
An annual Spring Fling to Support Gamut Theatre. Tickets are $100 each or $150 per couple. Open Bar. Silent & Live Auctions. Entertainment. Tasty Food.

Art Association of HARRISBURG

Upcoming Events

Through May 10th:
"Dimensions: Photorealism through Abstraction" Exhibition

May 18th-June 21st:
90th Annual Juried Exhibition
Reception Friday, May 18th, 5-8 pm

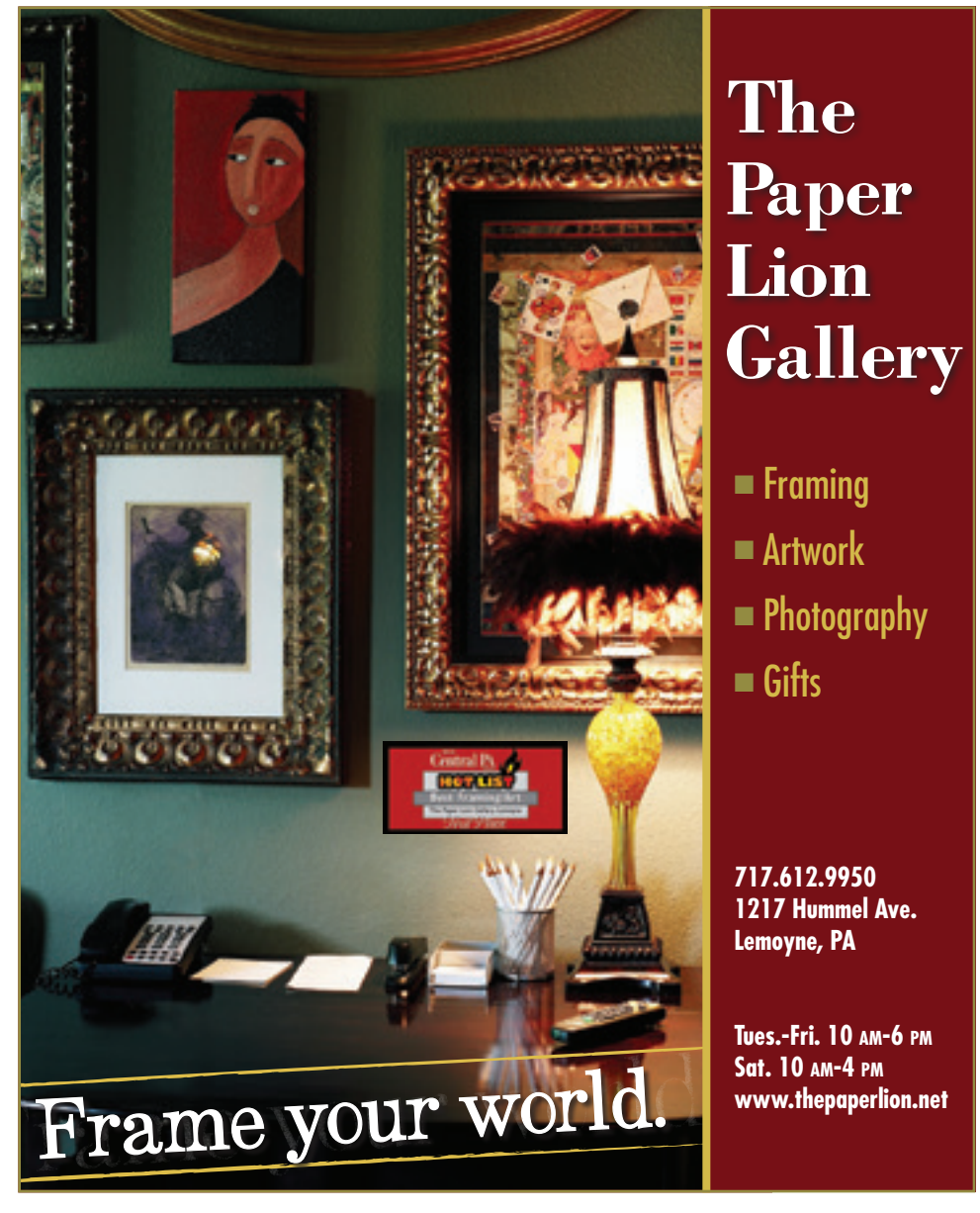
May 26-28th:
Artsfest Weekend
Wednesday Club Concerts at AAH

June 10th, 5-8 pm:
SECOND STREET SOIRÉE I
Hosted by David Skerpon & Chris Baldrige. Feat.: Photos, sculptures & paintings.
$45 in advance, $50 at door

June 29th-July 19th:
"Free For All"
AAH Student/Member Exhibition; reception Friday, June 29th, 5-8 pm

June 30th, 5-8 pm:
SECOND STREET SOIRÉE II
Hosted by Mark & Sheri Bennington. Feat.: Photos & paintings.
$45 in advance, $50 at door

Visit www.artassocofhbg.com for more information & Soirée reservations



When it comes to Pocono Mountains towns, Milford is a must-see

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Xavier Morales, *maitre d'hotel*

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"the prettiest county seat in America"
- Atlantic Magazine

"a spot filled with natural beauty,"
- The Wall Street Journal

"A stream of new visitors, renewed civic pride, and a legendary hotel have made Victorian-era Milford the latest East Coast idyll."
- Travel & Leisure

"Nestled near the beauty of the Pocono Mountain region, Milford, Pennsylvania, is a small community close to outdoor adventures, wildlife sanctuaries and shopping day trips."
- USA Today

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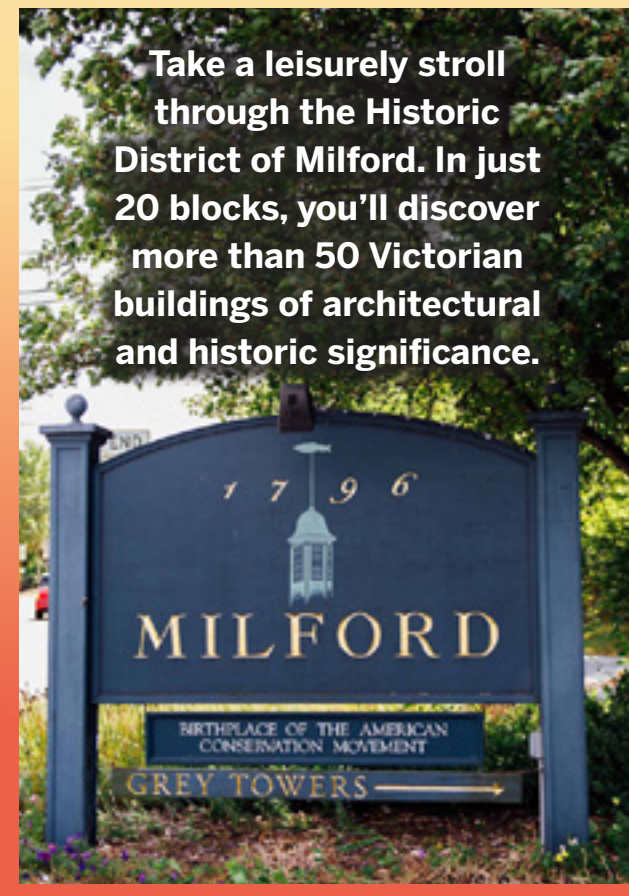
Take a leisurely stroll through the Historic District of Milford. In just 20 blocks, you'll discover more than 50 Victorian buildings of architectural and historic significance.
1796
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Milford is a 2 1/2-hour drive from Harrisburg, Follow I-81 N and I-84 E to US-6 E. Take exit 46 from I-84 E. Follow US-6 E to Blackberry Alley in Milford

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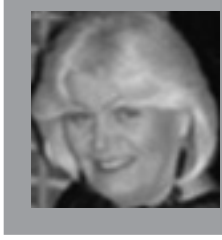
Where do I begin?

Trans Central PA Topics



By Joanne Carroll

No one could have imagined that a decade ago a mini-conference envisioned as an opportunity to educate a small segment of Pennsylvania, would grow to be a conference that in ten years the premier transgender event in North America and perhaps the world.

KS 2018, in a word used by so many attendees as they checked out of the Sheraton on Sunday, March 11, 2018, *fabulous*.

Other words…"wow, I can't remember ever having this good a time in my life"… "the last few years have been great, but this year was the best yet"…I cannot wait to be back in 2019". These are just a small sample of the excitement this conference generates.

If you have never given yourself a chance to experience four days of authenticity, friendship, great food, sense of community, a multitude of learning experiences…and of course "fun"; then you have denied yourself one heck of an experience.

To make it a success it requires a lot of hard work by a number of people and I will extend my gratitude to them in a moment, but first I must thank and congratulate all who attended. This conference could never be a success if it was never attended. The idiom…"if you build it they will come" is a good theme for a movie, but it takes so many of you that may read this column to allow us to be successful.

You risk leaving someone out when you begin naming names of those that step up to work on the conference, and the first people I must recognize are my two Co-Chairs, Dr. Jeanine Ruhsam and Kristy Snow, the founders of the Keystone Conference You will never know how hard the three of us work before the doors even swing open. Kristy as most of you know is the Vice-President of TransCentralPA and even as the conference winds down she is already working on KS 2019. Jeanine, I must thank you for our over twenty years of friendship, your commitment and efforts and for including me in the "triumvirate". Kristy, all I can say is that your make me look good, both as a Co-Chair and as my left brain in the day to day operations of TCPA (TransCentralPA).

Next I cannot say enough about Katie Ward, as the Secretary/Treasurer, "the Hostess" of TransCentralPA, and the Registrar and Volunteer Coordinator… what an outstanding job! Then there is Deanne Canfield (the Special Assistant to the President of TransCentralPA), you did it again girl, your oversight and management of the check-in process was again exemplary. Jenny Jensen (the Bingo Queen and the Director of the First timers Program) we thank you for your efforts. Nic Miller, our TCPA Family and Youth Program Director as well as Karen Lehman, TCPA Spouse and Significant Other Program Director …thank you ladies for a job well done.

Certainly, we could not have had success without the dedication and contribution by the volunteers that stepped up to assist. These obviously are the many members of TCPA, the Vanity Club, friends, and the Harrisburg Office of New York Life insurance Company.

We cannot leave out our Sponsors, Vendors and Advertisers; these entities truly allow us to conduct the Keystone Conference. Their more than generous financial contributions have allowed us over the years to make the conference affordable for all of you that attend. I do not have enough words to express the gratitude of a grateful organization. I hope that the conference will prove to be a successful experience.

To those that gave of their time and wisdom to conduct a workshop, thank you.

Finally, in the thank you department… thank you to the Staff and Management of the Sheraton Harrisburg/Hershey. Ten years have gone by so fast; it only seems like yesterday that we descended upon you, but your exemplary service standards, the quality of your products, and certainly your friendship cannot be accurately measured in words…thank you.

Keystone 2019 is already in the planning stages, in a few days, we will be meeting with the hotel staff to work on the details for next year, which by the way will be March 19-24, 2019. We look forward eagerly to working together toward another successful conference.

As I bring this column to a close, let me say this. If you have never experienced the Keystone Conference, I wholeheartedly suggest you plan to attend next year. It is a transformative experience for so many…

By the way, for any of you that are interested, identifying as a transgender person or residence in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is not a requirement for membership…dues are only $20.00 per calendar year for everyone, and anyone, especially allies can join. It is easy to become a member. Just find the tab marked "Membership Info" on our website (transcentralpa.org) and follow the link.

See you next time and all your footsteps lead you to your best life!

For more information, visit www.TransCentralPA.org.

Joanne Carroll is the President of TransCentral PA. TransCentral PA is committed to providing advocacy and caring support for transgender individuals, their significant others, families, friends and allies. TransCentralPA.

Pride Festival presents Drag Queen Alaska

The 26th annual Pride Festival of Central PA presents Drag Queen Alaska as Headliner on Sat., July 28, Riverfront Park, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Admission is $10. 12 and under is free.

The popular event is themed Courage - It's What It's About.

Raised in Erie, PA, Alaska is an internationally renowned American Drag performer, recording artist and crowned winner of RuPaul's Drag Race All Stars season 2, as the 2018 Festival headliner at the 26th Pride Festival of Central PA.

She studied theater at the University of Pittsburgh and then moved to Los Angeles to pursue a career in acting. Frustrated with the auditioning process, Alaska turned to drag; performing in clubs and pride celebrations all over Southern California and went on to release, "Glamtron," a mixtape of recordings.

Alaska returned to Pittsburgh and working with Sharon Needles and Cherri Baum, formed the band 'Haus of Haunt" which evolved into a drag troupe, helping to launch the career of fellow drag queen and recording artist Christeene Vale.

In 2013, Alaska competed on the 5th season of RuPaul's Drag Race and shared runner up status with fellow contestant, Roxxxy Andrews.

In 2016, Alaska was crowned the winner of RuPaul's Drag Race All Stars Season 2. Since obtaining world- wide notoriety from appearing in the Drag Race shows, Alaska has toured and performed all over the world appearing in RuPaul's Drag Race Battle of the Seasons shows, the Drag Stars at Sea cruises, custom one-woman shows, cabarets and holiday shows.

Billboard Magazine listed Alaska as the 7th most-active drag queen on social media in August 2015.

Alaska has released a string of singles, "Ru Girl", "Your Makeup Is Terrible", and " This is My Hair" and two albums, "Anus" in 2015 and "Poundcake" in 2016. This will be Alaska's first time performing at the Pride Festival of Central PA.

Other scheduled first time performers at the 2018 festival include:

Singer Songwriter and Central PA native Suzi Brown

Bumbada!, a women's drumming troupe from southern Pennsylvania.

Pop Singer, Jaremi Caray, better known as drag queen, Phi Phi O'Hara.

New Jersey native and multi-instrumentalist, Dani Fiore.

Free Reign, a local all women four-piece rock and blues band and transgender rock and country artist Brody Ray.

Pride Festival of Central PA is a project of The Foundation for Enhancing Communities. Central Voice is a Festival Sponsor.

INFO - www.centralpapridefestival.com

QUEERING RACIAL JUSTICE: from page 1

Heidi Notario, left, opened a discussion on Queering Racial Justice Feb. 20 at the LGBT Center of Central PA. Notario is president of the center board. Panelists from the left are Dre Ceja, ARTS of PA; Keisha McToy, Alder Health Services; Adanjesus Marin, Make the Road/PA organizer; Angela Kirkland, local activist; and Tadi Betancourt, local activist. Twenty-four people attended the discussion. A live-stream of the discussion is available on the center's Facebook page.
CENTRAL VOICE PHOTO

we can learn," Notario said as she began moderating, asking all assembled to act respectfully towards one another.

Adanjesus Marin, Make the Road/PA organizer, and the center's keynote speaker at the 2018 Trans & Queer Youth Conference last March, used the word "disposable" to describe how was treated as a young person venturing forth into queer quarters.

"Trashy was a word I heard a lot," Marin said, saying the word neutralized him and other Latinx, a gender-neutral word alternative to Latino and Latina (pronounced *La-teen-ex*).

It's also easy for the mainstream gay community to "trade away transgender issues in order to achieve their specific goal," Marin noted. He's not pushing Fake News on that one.

In 2011, after gay marriage became legal in New York, Pauline Park, New York Association for Gender Rights Advocacy told New Yorker writer Emily Greenhouse: "The more privileged gay white men who live in Manhattan are more likely to open up their checkbooks" for same-sex marriage than for transgender rights. And that's what happened. Once marriage equality was achieved, donations fell by an estimated 20% to those mainstream national organizations pushing for marriage but not necessarily transgender or racial justice and economic issues.

Urvashi Vaid wrote in *The Nation* magazine right after marriage equality was achieved: "The queer movement is focused on formal legal gay/lesbian equality only and still does not address the economic, racial and gender-based inequities affecting low-income LGBT folks, transgender people, people of color (POC), women and others in queer communities."

Ironically, transgender women of color led the iconic Stonewall Riots in 1969, signaling the birth of the modern civil rights movement for sexual minorities.

Enter the Trump Administration and its roller coaster of policy and programmatic reversals on all things gay. Estimates indicate 20-25% of Trump's vote came from cis-gendered white men and women. Perhaps they identified with economic issues rather than civil rights issues less threatening to them in their daily routines than in the lives of poor, queer, people of color.

Marin added a comment prompting audience laughter, although the effects of his observation on others isn't the least bit funny. "They want us around to decorate their events so they can feel good about themselves." A once and done gesture that doesn't change any institutional structures around issues of inclusion. Event invitations do not empower people of color. Rather, they offer a token 'walk on' for an annual meeting or fundraiser.

Refining her first question, Notario asked panelists to dissect racism and indifference that arises from bigotry within the larger LGBT community. Alder Health Service's Keisha McToy said acknowledging sub-communities within our precincts is key to understanding intergroup degradations.

"When I came out as a teenager, I was not black enough for some black lesbians. I didn't fit in with the white lesbians," she explained. McToy's deep sharing underscored the need for what Notario stressed early into the discussion. Create a safe atmosphere for what may be a difficult discussion, one in which particpants feel they can be honest. And, in the process, address each other with respect.

Dre Ceja said 'racism infilatrates" everything at all levels of local, national, international organizations. "People belittle us," Dre lamented.

If the racism within LGBT segments of the community are to be addressed, I think we must be wise to first differentiate between what is conflict and what is abuse.

As Sarah Schulman points out in *Conflict Is Not Abuse – Overstating Harm, Community Responsibility, and the Duty of Repair*, creating safe space in her view (and mine) is not about creating space in which one never hears an idea or thought that may upset or challenge them. Rather, a safe space is one in which we can all hear our dearly held assumptions challenged, or affirmed, in a way that isn't hurtful to us. Hurt doesn't promote communication when groups want to discuss "What does racism look like inside our own LGBT community?" It's not about winning or being right. It's about being in the moment, open to new ideas.

Schulman's view is in stark contrast to, for example, trends on college campuses where administrators and student governance structures have returned to in loco parentis mode dismantled during the turbulent 60s. The kind of 'safe discussion' I'm describing to readers in my analysis here is an example of how we can come together to 'queer racial justice' in ways that aren't hurtful. We all speak to the best in one another.

Eventually, with enough safe space discussions in which all our assumptions are challenged we'll find ways to move forward together.

Moving forward is what Alder CEO Rosemary Browne had in mind when she accepted the offer to administer the multi-service agency serving the HIV, transgnender and sexual minority communties.

"I lost friends when I came to Alder," she shared, feeling stigma's sting. "They thought 'Oh, I see, you're divorced, that's a gay place, HIV and all that too. So you must be a lesbian!'" she said. "I learned first hand what it's like to go through that kind of social rejection," she said. "But as friends physically backed away from me I encouraged each one to be more open minded and not make ridiculous statements about LGBTQ folks that were based in ignorance and intolerance."

Browne has a keen sense of history.

"The Voting Rights Act was adopted in my lifetime," she said, underscoring the profound circumstance. The importance of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 being signed into law "was to outlaw discriminatory voting practices and legal barriers targeting blacks, including literacy tests as a prerequisite to voting." The parallels are clear. Pennsylvania has been trying for more than 15 years to pass basic civil rights protections for LGBT taxpayers.

By the time Notario asked *Why is it important to focus on racism?* the unspoken energy in the room had edged up in a positive way.

"I don't know how to convince you should care about other people," Angela Kirkland offered. She noted that "there are other experiences besides your own" and "not everyone is able to be vocal about their oppressions, so ask what they need to feel valued," she suggested.

Notario finshed the evening with asking *What can people do to schieve social justice in their own spaces?*

Local activist Tadi Betancourt said, "Getting down to work is difficult. Enact a plan."

What will your plan be?

EDITOR'S NOTE: *The analysis presented here is not a 'transcript' of the discussion. Not many people would read something like that. There is, however, a live-stream of the event at the LGBT Center of PA's Facebook page which we encourage you to visit. Decide for yourself how you feel about what was said in the one hour, 15-minute panel discussion.*

Explanation of "queering racial justice"

"Everyone's lived experience is different," says Keisha McToy, Manager of Operations, Alder Health Services.

Keisha McToy is a Harrisburg native. She is Manager of Operations for Alder Health Services, the only LGBT focused health center in a 120-mile radius of Harrisburg. She has been with the agency for over three years. Keisha lives in Lower Paxton Township with her wife and child.

Central Voice: What exactly does 'queering racial justice' mean?

Keisha McToy: Acknowledging the intersectionality of being a member of the LGBT community while also being a person of color and making sure that discussions and advocacy around race and racism is part of the LBGT equality movement.

CV: What is 'Intersectionality'?

KM: The term coined by Kimberle Williams Crenshaw means "the complex and cumulative manner in which the effects of different forms of discrimination combine, overlap or intersect." Different forms of discrimination cannot be examined separately from one another since they are all interconnected.

CV: Is it automatic that a white lesbian will naturally understand a black lesbian? Will a college educated black man automatically understand his Latinx waiter at brunch?

KM:: It is not about a natural or automatic understanding because everyone's lived experience is different. One black lesbian may not understand another black lesbian but the point is to try to learn from others' unique experiences and realize the challenges they may face as a result of those experiences.

CV: Does a shared 'non-heterosexual' sexuality automatically mean we come ready-made with empathy for our queer environment?

KM: Not at all. Again, we have all had different lived experiences and therefore have different levels of privilege. Unless we make an intentional effort to learn from those who do not have the same privilege we do, we likely have some of the same biases that those outside our queer community do.

CV: If people from as many categories of Identity Politics as we can name came together to solve the problem of hunger >

"When I came out as a teenager, I was not black enough for some black lesbians. I didn't fit in with the white lesbians,"

Keisha McToy, Manager of Operations, Alder Health Services

in their community, is that a legitimate way of using their resources to solve a problem all groups have?

KM: Absolutely. Anytime many different subsets of people can come together for one cause, it is a tremendous accomplishment.

CV: Is that a better use of resources than debating who's the hungriest?

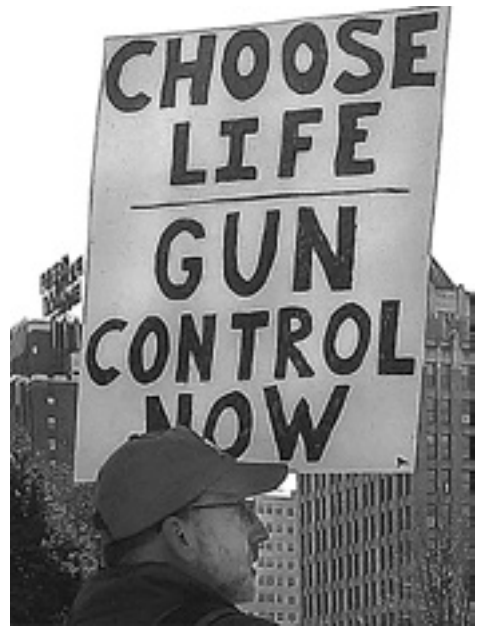
KM: Of course, it is. Time spent debating who is the hungriest could be the difference between life and death for someone.

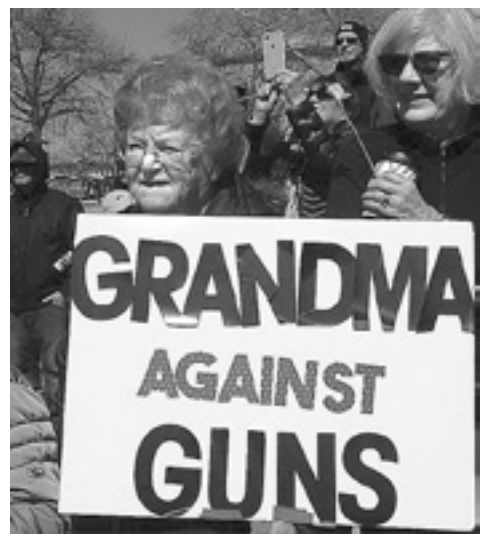
CV: If an individual comes from a privileged background (and recognizing that 'privilege' is a relative term, i.e. I went to a state university, someone else went to Yale), do they have to apologize for being born into a family of means?

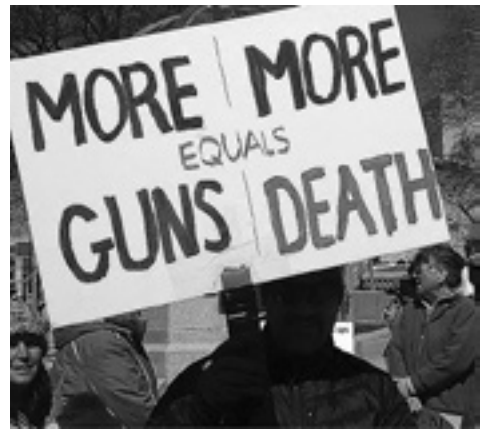
KM: There is absolutely no reason to apologize for your privilege. We all have some or another form of privilege. The key is to acknowledge that privilege and the power that it gives you and, in turn, use it to elevate those who do not share your privilege and subsequent power.

CV: If a person with more of something – money, education, a car, an extra room – helps someone with less, is that a legitimate way for a person of 'privilege' to help someone less fortunate?

KM: If that is what the person needs. We must ask what the needs of that person who is less fortunate are. We meet them where they are as much as we can. If you give someone a car and they don't have money to put gas in it, what was the point? If you give someone a sofa or a bed and they have no home in which to place it, it defeats the purpose.







FIGHTING FOR LIFE: from page 1

doesn't mean school shootings don't negatively impact students' sense of security in their own schools."

He says walking into school the day after a shooting prompts students to wonder *Am I next?* "It's time we protect the students and children of this country. People are dying on the streets, kids are being shot in school, this is an issue," Wrightstone says.

For him, gun control is not a Democrat or Republican issue, rather "a life or death issue". When he saw Parkland students speaking out and fighting back, he wanted to "get involved myself. It felt as a student, it was my responsibility to get involved."

Wrightstone understands the tensions that can lead to social justice tensions.

"As a bi-racial person (African-American), who appears white, I benefit from white privilege just as much as I have experienced racism," Wrightstone says.

Racial disparity definitely exists, he insists. If the Parkland shooting happened at an all-black school, how would the story change, he asks.

"Parkland has a very high percentage of white students. I recognize there has been quite a lot of debate surrounding why a group of white teenagers is listened to when black teenagers, who have been fighting for "Black Lives Matter" and gun reform for years, are ignored and given way less attention," Wrightstone posits.

"I am grateful Parkland students recognize racial disparity exists and are using their white privilege to further amplify their outcry for social justice, to speak for those who cannot speak or who are simply just ignored," he says.

"I also recognize it is likely I am listened to more in my social justice work because I appear white, but I want to use that to help speak for those who are ignored or who are paid less attention to due to the color of their skin," Wrightstone explains.

Social justice work is part of my ethos, Wrightstone says, "so it is incredibly important for me to get out there and speak for what I believe in."

EDITOR'S NOTE*: Since the March 24 rallies, the YouTube Campus in California was the scene of an active, female shooter who, armed with a pistol, shot her boyfriend, two other people, and then killed herself. Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey responded to President Donald Trump's use of Twitter to offer his "thoughts and prayers" as being "reactive". "We can't keep being reactive to this, thinking and praying it won't happen again at our schools, jobs, or our community spots. It's beyond time to evolve our policies," Dorsey tweeted to Trump. Proposals receiving attention are to fund gun-violence research; eliminate "absurd" restrictions on the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; impose universal background checks; ban high-capacity magazines, and limit firing power on the streets.*

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HUMAN RELATIONS:

from page 6

protecting sexual orientation and/or gender expression are able to review those types of claims. Local municipalities under state law are allowed to expand coverage to include LGBT claims.

As of November 2017, 45 of the 2,562 Pennsylvania municipalities have passed local non-discrimination ordinances since 1982, according to the PA Youth Congress. That's about one-third of the state's population. The remaining two-thirds of the state's LGBT population is out of luck with making claims of the local and/or state level. That option simply does not exist for them.

In the last 20 years, Pennsylvania state legislators have unsuccessfully introduced amendments more than a dozen times to the Commonwealth's human relations law that would protect individuals against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and/or gender identity. No serious action has ever been taken legislative leaders with oversight into such measures. Passing such an amendment to the state commission's oversight duties would provide protections for the two-thirds of the state's LGBT population now with such protection.

PA Gov. Tom Wolf last October 23 urged the General Assembly to pass the PA Fairness Act, bipartisan legislation that extends non-discrimination provisions in state law to protect against discrimination based on sexual orientation, and gender expression or identity. Pennsylvania is the only state in the northeastern U.S. without a law protecting individuals from this form of discrimination.

In lieu of state-level protections, the Pennsylvania Human Relations commission has begun to collect alleged complaints of discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. That is not fake news. The step was taken so that the commission can rely on what is actually reported to it rather than guessing at levels of discrimination. Specifically, the state commission is collecting information and, after a case-by-case analysis, actually investigating LGBTQ-related claims in the areas of employment, housing, public accommodations, commercial property and education.

The "regulatory" term for such steps by an agency of state government is "proposed guidance". In other words, in the absence of a law or regulation, individuals, other agencies and entities, employers, and other interested parties with lives at stake ask for or need guidance in how to proceed.

The proposed guidance states: "Federal courts and federal administrative agencies have held that discrimination claims filed by LGBT individuals may be taken, investigated and analyzed as sex-discrimination claims. The gist of these claims is that LGBTQ individuals do not comply with sexual stereotypes and that adverse action(s) against an LGBTQ individual due to that person's failure to comply with sexual stereotypes amounts to discrimination based on sex. Accordingly, it is the position of the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission that it will take and investigate sex-stereotyping claims filed by LGBTQ individuals."

The guidance also notes the commission's continuing support of legislation that would expand the state's Human Relations Act to specifically cover anti-LGBTQ discrimination.

Lehigh County strengthens LGBT protections

Lehigh County Executive Phil Armstrong has signed two administrative notifications enhancing LGBT non-discrimination protections in the county.

Adrian Shanker, Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center Executive Director, left, and Lehigh County Executive Phil Armstrong.

The first notification clarified the county's own employment policy. The second mandates that county contractors and grantees also comply with the non-discrimination requirement.

Armstrong worked with the Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center on the critical civil rights protections.

"As one of his first policy actions as County Executive, Phil Armstrong has moved to clarify the non-discrimination policy for county employees and expanded these protections to employees of all county contractors and grantees,"says center executive director Adrian Shanker.

"While the good news is that non-discrimination is the law in the Cities of Allentown or Bethlehem, the need for these administrative notifications is great. 70% of Pennsylvanians live in municipalities with no protections on the job or in housing related to their sexual orientation or gender identity," Shanker said. For example, Shanker points out "Here in Lehigh County, a business in Whitehall could legally put a sign on their front door that says "now hiring, except for transgender people".

Another example Shanker used is that "a non-profit in Fogelsville could legally fire an employee after learning of their same-sex marriage." Armstrong's action would bar discrimination if an entity accepts funds from Lehigh County.

INFO- www.bradburysullivancenter.org

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Organized by Capital Region Stonewall Democrats and moderated by Andrew Sedgwick Guth, candidates for Pennsylvania's 10th Congressional District on courted the region's LGBT voters. From left: Shavonnia Corbin-Johnson, George Scott, Eric Ding, Alan Howe, and Laura Quick.

Candidates court LGBT vote

Candidates running for Congress, the Pennsylvania state House and Senate, and Lieutenant Governor gathered April 9 in Harrisburg to court the LGBT vote.

"Currently we are living in a political climate which has become more openly hostile toward our communities. That's why it is important for our community members to learn where candidates stand on issues impacting us. Meet the Candidates Night is so important for our members, both LGBT identifying and allies because it highlights which candidates are committed to our continued fight for equality. " said, Andrew Guth, chair, Capital Region Stonewall Democrats, organizers of the event.

Capital Region Stonewall Democrats is a Political Action Committee that includes Harrisburg, Lancaster, York, and nearby communities.

INFO – http://capitalstonewall.org

Netflix destroys homophobe with 3 simple words

Christina Aguilera's surprise appearance on the premiere of RuPaul's Drag Race season 10 may be old news by now, but this succinct clap-back from Netflix about Christina's appearance is a timeless classic to be savored in perpetuity by generations to come.

Just to recap: In the episode, RuPaul announced that another queen, Farrah Moan, was joining the runway.

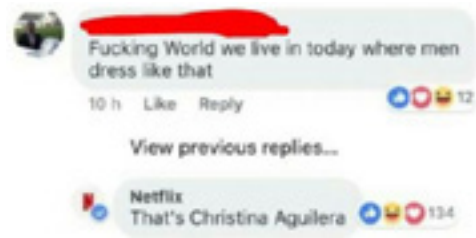
Out walked Farrah, and she looked good.

So good in fact that it was Christina. But at least one troll didn't get this memo (they rarely do).

Responding to a photo of Christina on Facebook, someone wrote: "F*cking World we live in today where men dress like that".

Then the official Netflix account took a swing at this near-perfect setup.

Here's what they said:


Fucking World we live in today where men dress like that
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